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IN THIS ISSUE:

News Releases—

Oats in Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve Released

USDA Announces Alternative Procedure for Exchanging Generic
Commodity Certificates for Wheat

USDA, CFTC Expand Interagency Liaison

CCC Loan Interest Rate for November 8 Percent

USDA Announces Release Dates for 1988 Crop and Livestock Reports

USDA Releases Cost of Food at Home for September

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices

✓ National Agricultural Library Unveils Videodisc Training Package

USDA Announces Weekly Cattle Slaughter, Meat Purchases and Exports
of Cattle Under the Dairy Termination Program

NOV 10 1987

10

11

News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

OATS IN FARMER-OWNED GRAIN RESERVE RELEASED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30—Effective immediately, oats pledged as collateral for farmer-owned grain reserve loans may be released, said Milton Hertz, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation.

These loans may be repaid since the national average price received by producers for oats on Oct. 23 reached \$1.60 per bushel, which is the statutory release level under the Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve Program.

CCC makes storage payments to producers with grain in the reserve. Producers can keep the storage payments earned through the date the reserve loan is repaid.

The release of oats in the reserve will continue through Nov. 30, Hertz said. If the five-day national average market price remains at or above \$1.60 on Dec. 1, oats will remain in release status. However, storage earnings will stop and interest on these loans will begin to accrue for oats that have been in reserve for more than one year. Interest is already accruing on loans for oats that have been in reserve less than one year.

If the Dec. 1 price falls below \$1.60, oats in the reserve no longer will be in release status and producers will continue earning storage payments.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

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USDA ANNOUNCES ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE FOR EXCHANGING GENERIC COMMODITY CERTIFICATES FOR WHEAT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced an alternative procedure for exchanging generic certificates for wheat listed in the Commodity Credit Corporation catalog.

Those interested will be invited to submit bids for specified quantities of CCC-owned wheat listed in the catalog that will be available for exchange with certificates.

A total of 10 million bushels of wheat will be offered each week to the

highest bidder in exchange for generic certificates. CCC may revise the quantities offered from week to week and reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

The closing time for receipt of bids at the Kansas City Commodity Office, 8930 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Mo., will be Friday, Nov. 6, at 2 p.m. CST and each Friday thereafter until further notice. Bids may be hand delivered, or submitted by letter, telegram, mailgram, Telex, TWX or EASYLINK. Successful bidders will be notified as soon as possible after bid closing but no later than 5 p.m. CST the same business day.

This procedure will not change nor replace the existing procedure for determining Posted Elevator Prices for normal catalog exchanges. The method for determining Posted County Prices and procedures to exchange certificates for commodities that had been pledged as loan collateral by producers also remain unchanged.

This procedure is being implemented to promote orderly marketing of CCC-cataloged wheat at values which are consistent with prevailing market conditions.

Collyn Peterson (816) 926-6406, Kansas City, Mo.
Ronald Burgess (202) 447-4966, Washington, D.C.

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USDA, CFTC EXPAND INTERAGENCY LIAISON

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30—The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission are expanding interagency liaison activities, it was announced today by USDA's Assistant Secretary for Economics Ewen M. Wilson and CFTC's Acting Chairman Kalo A. Hineman.

CFTC is the independent federal agency responsible for the regulation of the nation's futures markets.

USDA economists will attend CFTC's closed market surveillance briefings and overall information exchanges between USDA and CFTC will increase.

The Commodity Exchange Act requires liaison between the offices of USDA's assistant secretary of economics and CFTC's chairman. At the same time, useful market information is exchanged through informal contact between economists in both agencies.

The special liaison relationship between USDA and CFTC has existed since 1974 when CFTC was established to succeed the Commodity Exchange Authority, then part of USDA.

In the Commodity Futures Trading Act of 1974, Congress noted the price discovery functions played by futures markets on behalf of American agriculture and determined that both CFTC and USDA play an important role in providing reliable and timely market information.

Last year, the House Agriculture Committee members said they favored strengthening of the formal liaison existing between CFTC and USDA. In recent meetings, both agencies have reviewed information-sharing procedures, as urged by the House report accompanying the Futures Trading Act of 1986 (H.R. 4613), to ensure appropriate exchange of market information.

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CCC LOAN INTEREST RATE FOR NOVEMBER 8 PERCENT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—Commodity loans disbursed in November by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry an 8 percent interest rate, according to Milton Hertz, CCC executive vice president.

The new rate, up from October's 7-1/2 percent, reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in November.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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USDA ANNOUNCES RELEASE DATES FOR 1988 CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service today announced the following schedule of major reports to be issued by the Agricultural Statistics Board in 1988:

Crop Production	Jan. 11, Jan. 14 (1987 annual summary), Feb. 9, March 9, April 11, May 10, June 9, July 12, Aug. 11, Sept. 12, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 12.
Grain Stocks	Jan. 14, March 31, June 30, Sept. 30.
Winter Wheat and Rye Seedings (for 1988 harvest)	Jan. 14
Prospective Plantings	March 31
Cattle	Feb. 5, July 29
Cattle on Feed	Jan. 22, Feb. 16, March 18, April 22, May 16, June 17, July 22, Aug. 15, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16.
Hogs and Pigs	Jan. 6, March 31, June 30, Sept. 30.

Charles E. Caudill, administrator of NASS, said a calendar and catalog showing the full schedule of Agricultural Statistics Board reports for 1988 will be available in early December. For copies, write Agricultural Statistics Board Publications, USDA/NASS, Room 5829 South, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000, or telephone (202) 447-4021.

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USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR SEPTEMBER

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—Here is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for September 1987.

Cost of food at home for a week in September 1987

	-----Food plans----- (In Dollars)			
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate cost	Liberal
Families:				
Family of 2 (20-50 years)	39.90	50.50	62.40	77.40
Family of 2 (51 years and over)	37.90	48.40	59.80	71.60
Family of 4 with preschool children	58.10	72.60	88.70	109.00
Family of 4 with elemen- tary schoolchildren	66.50	85.30	106.90	128.70
Individuals in four-person families:				
Children:				
1-2 years	10.50	12.70	14.80	17.90
3-5 years	11.30	14.00	17.20	20.70
6-8 years	13.80	18.40	23.20	27.00
9-11 years	16.40	21.00	27.00	31.30
Females:				
12-19 years	17.20	20.60	25.00	30.30
20-50 years	17.20	21.50	26.10	33.40
51 and over	17.10	20.80	25.80	30.80
Males:				
12-14 years	17.10	23.80	29.70	35.00
15-19 years	17.80	24.70	30.60	35.50
20-50 years	19.10	24.40	30.60	37.00
51 and over	17.40	23.20	28.60	34.30

USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans—thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost and liberal.

Laura Sims, administrator of the Human Nutrition Information Service, said the plans consist of foods that provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

In computing the costs, USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and prepared at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods and other nonfood items bought at the store.

“USDA costs are only guides to spending,” Sims said. “Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes, and how much food is prepared at home.

“Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable,” she said. “The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families who have tighter budgets. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan.”

To use the chart to estimate your family's food costs:

—For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home— use the amounts shown in the chart.

—For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent from the amount shown for each meal not eaten at home. Thus, for a person eating lunch out 5 days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

—For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart are for individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the “individual” figures and make these adjustments, because larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones:

—For a one-person family, add 20 percent.

—For a two-person family, add 10 percent.

—For a three-person family, add 5 percent.

—For a five- or six-person family, subtract 5 percent.

—For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

Details of the four family food plans are available from the Nutrition Education Division, Human Nutrition Information Service, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Johna Pierce (301) 436-8617

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.88 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 9.05 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.99 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.94 cents per pound.

Loan repayment rates for 1986 or 1987 crop warehouse or farm-stored rice loans are the higher of the world prices or 50 percent of the loan rates.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, the estimated average world prices for 1987 crop rough rice are:

- long grain, \$6.12 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.71 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.55 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3:00 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Nov. 10 at 3:00 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-5954

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY UNVEILS VIDEODISC TRAINING PACKAGE

BELTSVILLE, Md., Nov. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library has developed a new videodisc training package that teaches researchers how to search the library's database.

The new package, called AGRICOLearn, provides on-screen instructions to users seeking references in AGRICOLA, NAL's on-line database containing citations of about 2.5 million publications. The package also includes information on other agricultural databases and directions for using agricultural literature.

"AGRICOLearn is a very flexible package," says NAL Director Joseph H. Howard. "It provides one-on-one training to users who want to perform literature searches ranging from cursory to in-depth, and whose knowledge of database searching and agricultural literature varies from novice to expert."

Howard said the AGRICOLearn package is an effective training system because it provides direct interaction between the user and the system, and because the package features microcomputer-driven graphics and laser-disc sound and video.

AGRICOLearn was developed jointly by NAL and the University of Maryland Center for Instructional Development and Evaluation. The package is targeted primarily at users associated with USDA agencies, land-grant universities and other agricultural colleges.

The package is a stand-alone system consisting of 10 floppy discs, one 12-inch laser disc and printed instructional material. It can be utilized on most current IBM XT/AT-based and compatible systems with videodisc player and controller-overlay card. The IMSATT run-time module software is required to run the AGRICOLearn program.

A single copy of the course is available free to land-grant university libraries that have the equipment and software. For more information and to obtain copies of AGRICOLearn, contact Robert Butler, Room 203, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md. 20705 (telephone 301-344-3937); or Janis Morariu, Center for Instructional Development and Evaluation, University College, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. 20742 (telephone 301-985-7897).

Bob Butler (301) 344-3937

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USDA ANNOUNCES WEEKLY CATTLE SLAUGHTER, MEAT PURCHASES AND EXPORTS OF CATTLE UNDER THE DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—An estimated 300 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Oct. 17 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

This total includes all cows, heifers and calves identified as dairy animals designated for disposition in compliance with the program requirements.

The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1, 1986 through Oct. 17, 1987 is an estimated 1,224,400 head.

The purchases of meat in addition to normal purchases are to help offset the effects of the DTP on the domestic meat market. Cumulative purchases through Oct. 31 total 442,910,160 pounds.

Dairy cattle reported for export under the program for the period April 1, 1986 through Oct. 31, 1987 totaled an estimated 65,860 head. Live cattle exports are in addition to meat purchase requirements.

Cattle Slaughtered, Meat Purchased and Cattle Exported under the Dairy Termination Program¹

Period Ending	Cattle Slaughtered (Number)	Planned Meat Purchases (Pounds)	Meat Purchased (Pounds)	Cattle Reported for Export (Number)
(1986)				
April 26	259,700 ²		21,808,896	
May 31	163,100		69,188,480	6,622
June 28	98,000		67,951,412	7,316
July 26	96,300		60,581,808	6,470
Aug. 30	120,100		56,778,000	10,672
Sept. 27	52,500		20,195,039	4,031
Oct. 25	43,200		788,500	4,032
Nov. 29	45,700		21,564,346	5,371
Dec. 26	43,000		27,399,960	3,474
(1987)				
Jan. 30	49,600		29,239,980	3,355
Feb. 27	39,800		159,984	2,225
March 27	35,900		359,964	1,487
April 24	25,300		359,843	1,090
May 30	29,500		79,992	1,689
June 27	27,100		10,556,480	1,339
July 25	26,300		28,273,000	1,405
Aug.	62,500		22,588,476	2,923
Sept. 5	4,900		-----	306
12	800		-----	892
19	200		-----	592
26	300		-----	44
Oct. 3	200		-----	419
10	100		3,440,000	----
17	399		400,000	106
24			320,000	----
31			480,000	----
Total	1,224,400	382,800,000 ³	442,910,160	65,860

¹Includes all cows, heifers and calves under the DTP.
²Estimated for April 1 - April 26.
³(Through the end of the DTP, expressed on a product weight basis).

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